

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Employment and Wages in Shanghai	DATE DISTR.	4 June 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

1. In late 1953 there were roughly 1,500,000 unemployed persons in Shanghai, and this figure was increasing daily. Of this number, approximately 1,000,000 were probably members of labor unions. Including the dependents of these unemployed persons, they would make up about one half of the population of Shanghai. Thus 3,000,000 persons would be lacking in regular means of support.
2. To change one's place of employment voluntarily was unheard of. Employment in a particular factory was controlled by that factory's own labor union, and there was little cooperation among unions.
3. In late 1953 a skilled worker¹ received about 100 units per month². Unskilled labor received approximately 60-80 units, and a policeman or a minor municipal government official the same amount. From these wages were deducted fees for union dues and propaganda. Many of the unemployed were formed into forced labor groups for street cleaning and city improvements. Such individuals received only their food for the day; or, if not provided food, they received JMP 9,000 per day.

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1. Comment. An unrelated fairly reliable source reported on the wages of apprentices and skilled workers in Shanghai.

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2. Comment. Each unit was equal to JMP 5,500 at this time.

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